

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change comprising:
 - detecting an occurrence of a password change operation in execution on a system having a password database that stores passwords resulting from a password change operation;
 - detecting a new password when provided; and,
 - storing data indicative of the new password in a database other than the password database for later retrieval, the data indicative of the new password for use in providing the new password to the system automatically.
2. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 1 wherein detecting an occurrence of a change of password operation in execution on a system comprises detecting a new password prompt.
3. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 1 comprising:
 - prompting a user to provide authorization data, the authorization data being other than the new password; and,
 - associating the authorization data with the new password.
4. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 1, wherein detecting the new password comprises detecting the new password at least two separate times.
5. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change comprising:
 - detecting a change password operation in execution on a system for changing an old password, the system having a password database that stores said old password;

displaying to a user a prompt for a new password, in response to detecting the change password operation in execution and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation;

receiving the new password;

performing an operation to change the old password to the new password in the system automatically; and,

storing the new password in a database independent of the change password operation and other than the password database where the new password is stored by the change password operation.

6. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 5 wherein detecting the change password operation in execution on a system comprises detecting password change command options.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change comprising:

detecting a password change operation in execution on a system having a password database that stores passwords resulting from a password change operation;

displaying to a user a prompt for authentication information in response to detecting the change password operation in execution and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation;

receiving the authentication information;

when the authentication information is indicative of a known user, performing an operation to change a password of the known user to a new password in the system automatically; and,

storing the new password in a database independent of the change password operation and other than the password database where the changed password is stored by the change password operation.

8. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 7 wherein the prompt for authentication information is a prompt for

biometric information.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 8 comprising:
providing biometric information;
processing the provided biometric information to provide biometric data;
comparing the biometric data with a stored template; and
in dependence upon a comparison result retrieving a user password from a database.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 7 wherein the prompt for authentication information is a prompt for information relating to data stored in a memory of a smart card.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 7 wherein performing an operation to change the password comprises providing the new password to the system.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 7 wherein performing an operation to change the password comprises prompting the user to select between provision of the new password and automatic generation of the new password.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 12 wherein performing an operation to change the password comprises automatically generating the new password.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 7 wherein performing an operation to change the password comprises automatically generating the new password.

15. (Original) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim

13 wherein the automatically generated new password is unknown to the user.

16. (Original) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 15 wherein the automatically generated new password is an encryption key.

17. (Original) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 16 wherein data secured with the new password is encrypted using the encryption key.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 7 comprising:

performing another operation to change another password of the known user to the new password.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 7 comprising:

determining within the password database and associated with a same user all passwords identical to the password being changed and automatically performing at least another operation to change each identical password of the known user to the new password.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of securely supporting a password change comprising:

detecting a password change operation in execution on a system having a known user authorized thereon;

automatically generating a new password in response to detecting the password change operation and other than occurring as an operation of the change password operation and storing the new password in a password database;

performing an operation to change a password to the new password in the system automatically; and,

storing the new password in a database independent of the change password operation and other than the password database where the changed password is stored.

21. (Original) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 20 wherein the automatically generated new password is unknown to the user.

22. (Original) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 21 wherein the automatically generated new password is an encryption key.

23. (Original) A method of securely supporting password change according to claim 22 wherein data secured with the new password is encrypted using the encryption key.

24. (New) A computer readable medium containing executable instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to implement a method of securely supporting password change, comprising:

computer executable instructions for detecting an occurrence of a password change operation in execution on a system having a password database that stores passwords resulting from a password change operation;

computer executable instructions for detecting a new password when provided; and

computer executable instructions for storing data indicative of the new password in a database other than the password database for later retrieval, the data indicative of the new password for use in providing the new password to the system automatically.

25. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 24 wherein the computer executable instructions for detecting an occurrence of a password change operation in execution on a system comprises computer executable instructions for detecting a new password prompt.

26. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 24 further comprising:
computer executable instructions for prompting a user to provide authorization data, the authorization data being other than the new password; and

computer executable instructions for associating the authorization data with the new password.

27. (New) A computer readable medium containing executable instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to implement a method of securely supporting password change, comprising:

computer executable instructions for detecting a change password operation in execution on a system for changing an old password, the system having a password database that stores said old password;

computer executable instructions for displaying to a user a prompt for a new password, in response to detecting the change password operation in execution;

computer executable instructions for receiving the new password and for performing an operation to change the old password to the new password in the system automatically; and

computer executable instructions for storing the new password in a database other than the password database where the new password is stored by the change password operation.

28. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 27 wherein the computer executable instructions for detecting the change password operation in execution on a system comprises computer executable instructions for detecting password change command options.

29. (New) A computer readable medium containing executable instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to implement a method of securely supporting password change, comprising:

computer executable instructions for detecting a password change operation in execution on a system having a password database that stores passwords resulting from a password change operation;

computer executable instructions for displaying to a user a prompt for authentication information in response to detecting the change password operation in execution;

computer executable instructions for receiving the authentication information and when the authentication information is indicative of a known user, for performing an

operation to change a password of the known user to a new password in the system automatically; and

computer executable instructions for storing the new password in a database other than the password database where the changed password is stored by the change password operation.

30. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 29 wherein the prompt for authentication information is a prompt for biometric information.

31. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 30 comprising computer executable instructions for:

- receiving provided biometric information;
- processing the provided biometric information to produce biometric data;
- comparing the biometric data with a stored template; and
- in dependence upon a comparison result retrieving a user password from a database.

32. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 29 wherein the prompt for authentication information is a prompt for information relating to data stored in a memory of a smart card.

33. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 29 wherein the computer executable instructions for performing an operation to change the password comprises computer executable instructions for prompting the user to select between provision of the new password and automatic generation of the new password.

34. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 29 wherein the computer executable instructions for performing an operation to change the password comprises computer executable instructions for automatically generating the new password.

35. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 29 further comprising computer executable instructions for performing another operation to change another password of the known user to the new password.

36. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 29 further comprising computer executable instructions for determining within the password database and associated with a same user all passwords identical to the password being changed and for automatically performing at least another operation to change each identical password of the known user to the new password.

37. (New) A computer readable medium containing executable instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to implement a method of securely supporting password change, comprising:

computer executable instructions for detecting a password change operation in execution on a system having a known user authorized thereon;

computer executable instructions for automatically generating a new password in response to detecting the password change operation and for storing the new password in a password database;

computer executable instructions for performing an operation to change an old password to the new password in the system automatically; and

computer executable instructions for storing the new password in a database other than the password database where the old password is stored.